PUPIL ASSIGNMENT

Changes in Pupil Assignment

The District administrative staff is developing a Student Reassignment Plan designed to meet the provisions of the Revised State Plan and the Court Order of January 9. A pupil reassignment directory is being developed for each attendance area affected by the Plan which will show the student's name, street address, grade level, and present school attendance area. This directory will be updated throughout the current school year to show changes in enrollment and racial composition in each attendance area. In planning for student reassignment for the 1976-77 school year, the administrative staff will follow the pupil reassignment requirements set forth in the Revised State Plan as modified by the Court. Since the time the Plan was developed, changing population patterns in the District have made it virtually impossible in some areas to comply with the student reassignment recommendations of the Plan and at the same time meet the requirements for maintaining racial balance. It is no longer possible, for example, to redraw the attendance boundaries in the Kinloch Elementary, Holman, and Springdale attendance areas so that the percentage of non-white students in each of these three schools is between 35 and 45 percent. The percentage of non-white students attending Berkeley Junior High has also been steadily increasing and as of this September is 46 percent of the total population of the school. If one-third of the students at Kennedy Junior High are transferred to Berkeley Junior

High, the possibility exists that the school over a short period of time may become segregated. Also, if at the time this reassignment of students is made the non-white enrollment of Berkeley Junior High is in a majority, the transfer of additional non-white

students into the school would violate the Student Transfer Policy established by the January 9 Court Order. Other difficulties are presented by the Pupil Assignment section of the Revised State Plan. According to the Plan, for example, Smith Elementary School is to be paired with Caroline School and become a 5th-6th grade center. It is also to receive fifth and sixth grade students in the Frostfield attendance area living west of Graham Road. Given that the enrollment of both Smith and Caroline Schools has been steadily declining and the fact that there are no fifth and sixth grade students in the Frostfield area living west of Graham Road, it is unlikely that Smith School will be able to maintain the necessary enrollment to achieve any measure of racial balance. These and similar circumstances as they develop will have to be taken into account by the District staff in planning the implementation of the Pupil Assignment section of the Revised State Plan. Nevertheless, the administrative staff whenever possible will follow the recommendations on pupil reassignment set forth in the Revised State Plan and the Court Orders of January 9 and June 7. The staff understands that in granting the District flexibility in its authority to make student assignments, the Court prohibited deviation from the Revised State Plan which would result in a lesser degree of integration in any school than

projected under the Plan. The Biracial Advisory Committee which will take a direct role in the implementation of the Student Assignment section of the Plan is also aware of this limitation.

INTRODUCTION

A preliminary budget for the enlarged District for 1975-76 was developed by representatives from the three former districts. That preliminary budget, which was approved by the Board of Education on August 13, 1975, showed an anticipated operational deficit in excess of $400,000. The recent reduction in State appropriations for public school districts in Missouri, however, resulted in a further reduction in State revenue for 1975-76. This change is reflected in the Revised Budget which was adopted by the Board on October 8, 1975. That budget shows total estimated expenditures of $30,866,401.73 against total anticipated receipts of $30,031,-985.43, resulting in an operational deficit of $834,416.30. Included in the Revised Budget are funds for Kinloch area schools for additional staff, the purchase of needed textbooks and instructional materials, and other necessary improvements in the Kinloch educational program which will qualify those schools for AAA accreditation. The Board of Education has also established within the provisions of the applicable statute and the decision of the U. S. Court of Appeals a tax rate of $5.38 per hundred dollars assessed valuation. The tax rate was certified by the Board in July, 1975 to the Department of Revenue of St. Louis County.

GOVERNANCE AND FINANCING

1975-76 Budget

Under the direction of the Superintendent, a unified budget for the enlarged District was developed for the 1975-76 school year. That budget was adopted by the Board on August 13, 1975. Representatives from all three former districts worked on the formulation of the combined budget. To a large extent, it represents a combination of the budgets developed individually by the three districts for the 1975-76 year. The merger of the three districts, however, resulted in a loss of approximately

$350,000 in State Aid and anticipated receipts had to be revised downward. It was also necessary to increase expenditures in some areas to meet the requirements of the Revised State Plan. The expenditures for the Kinloch Schools were also increased by approximately $400,000 in order to provide for needed equipment, textbooks and instructional materials as well as additional staff. The loss of State Aid coupled with a necessary increase in expenditures made a balanced budget impossible. The budget approved by the Board in August showed an anticipated operational deficit in excess of $400,000. The recent reduction in State Appropriations for Public Education will cause a further reduction in State revenue and increase this deficit to nearly $800,-000. These changes are reflected in the Revised Budget accompanying this Report (see Appendix G). Also accompanying this Report is a copy of the Application for State School Money which was submitted on behalf of the enlarged District for the 1975-76 budget year (see Appendix H). School

districts in Missouri must submit this Application annually between June 15 and June 30 to the State Department of Education. The combined application of the enlarged District was approved by the Board on June 11.

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